

The National Rifle Association has been the largest political donor to Members of Congress throughout the decade. In fact, the NRA soft money contributions to the Republican Party grew exponentially when the Republicans took over the House in 1994.

So it should come as a surprise to absolutely no one that the Republican leadership turned to the NRA to write their so-called "gun control" legislation, a proposal that is rife with loopholes.

The truth of the matter is that big money talks louder than kids' lives on Capitol Hill. Enormous soft money contributions have blinded the Republican leadership to 13 children who die every day in America in gun-related violence.

Let us stop the madness. Let us start saving our children's lives by passing real gun control legislation, and let us pass campaign finance reform to cut the ties between gun money and Congress once and for all.

AMERICANS WANT REAL PROBLEMS ATTACKED IN CONGRESS, NOT BOGUS ISSUES

(Mr. BARR of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Madam Speaker, we can hear it already. It is, bash the special interest groups, bash the grass-roots organizations out there, and avoid the real issue.

Unfortunately for the other side, and fortunately for real America out there, the American people know otherwise. The other side, in support of their gun control antics, frequently throw poll numbers around. Well, they do not tell, as usual, the rest of the story.

For example, the CNN-USA Today poll recently found that only 4 percent of Americans believe that guns were to blame for the tragic shooting at Columbine High School. By contrast, that same poll found, and these folks over here will never tell us that, that nearly 60 percent of the American people put the blame on family breakdown, mental problems, and lack of morals, not on guns.

That is what we ought to be addressing. That is what we are not addressing.

Big-city mayors are in there with them. They are saying, let us go after firearms manufacturers and put thousands of people out of jobs. That will solve the problems in our society. Wrong again. And the American people know it is wrong. They will not support that sort of big government, big litigation.

What they support are the honest proposals that will be before this House, hopefully will be before this House, to attack the real problems, not the bogus issues that we just heard from the other side.

LET US KEEP GUNS OUT OF HANDS OF CHILDREN

(Mr. ROTHMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, I am a Democrat who believes in the Second Amendment right to bear arms, but a Democrat who believes that we need gun control to keep guns out of the hands of our children.

There are plenty of causes of the violence in Littleton and in Georgia: parental neglect, teacher neglect, those young people who fired those weapons and committed those crimes, violence, sadistic and cruel videos and movies, and video games. But the number one culprit is the guns that the kids use to kill the other kids.

Some people say we cannot do two things at once in America, we cannot enjoy the right to bear arms and go hunting and use our guns lawfully and at the same time enact laws to keep guns out of the hands of 12- and 14-year-olds.

They are wrong. They underestimate the intelligence and ability of Americans to do two important things at once, recognize our right to bear arms, but protect our children.

The Republican leadership must stop its efforts to water down and delay reasonable, common-sense gun control that keeps guns out of the hands of our children.

I urge my Republican colleagues to get their leadership to allow reasonable, common-sense gun control to be passed in this House.

FISH AND WILDLIFE MITIGATING ONGOING SAFETY PROGRAMS REQUIRED BY FAA

(Mr. CALVERT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, on May 26, 1999, the City Manager of Corona testified that the City of Corona has been forced by the Fish and Wildlife Service to buy new land for mitigation in order to maintain and operate existing levees, flood control, streets, parks, and airport protection zones, which means clearing out trees in front of the runway that have been there for over 30 years and continually maintained.

That is right, Madam Speaker, Fish and Wildlife wants to mitigate for ongoing safety programs required by the FAA.

All of the mitigation required by Fish and Wildlife on this project were for existing projects, not for new ones. However, Fish and Wildlife Director Jamie Clark stated in that same hearing that requiring retroactive mitigation is not allowed.

Today I will introduce legislation that would prohibit retroactive mitigation for impacts that have occurred in

the past. This is just common-sense legislation.

GUN SAFETY LEGISLATION

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, 2 weeks ago the other body passed a modest gun safety package to keep guns out of the hands of kids and of criminals. They did the right thing. Now it is our turn to do the right thing.

But instead of doing the right thing, the Republican leadership in this House is playing games with gun safety. We now have a gun safety bill that has been written by the National Rifle Association. Instead of closing the gun show loophole to allow criminal background checks at gun shows, the NRA opens that loophole wider.

Background checks work. I would refer my colleagues to a study released in this morning's USA Today that says, "The instant background check might be the most effective piece of gun legislation ever."

The NRA says that we do not need new gun safety to protect kids and that the Justice Department has failed to do its job. Wrong again. This new study shows that gun laws are enforced more vigorously today than 5 years ago, prosecutions are up, and crime is down.

Gun legislation we passed in 1994 is working. We did the right thing then. Let us do the right thing now for our children and for families in this country.

CHINO BASIN DAIRIES

(Mr. GARY MILLER of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GARY MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, I would like to commend the House for passing H.R. 1906, the Fiscal Year 2000 Agriculture Appropriations bill.

One of the bill's provision contains an earmark of \$99 million for watershed and flood prevention operations. This is highly important to the dairy producers of my district, primarily located in Chino and Ontario, California.

As a result of the up-slope urbanization, the Chino Basin dairies, which are comprised of 270 dairies and 350 cows, have experienced increased flooding. This flooding washes manure and other water into the Santa Ana River, which is the source of drinking water downstream for 2½ million people.

Report language contained in H.R. 1906 identifies the Chino dairy preserves as an important project. Madam Speaker, this is one of the many steps which I hope the House will continue to take in resolving this tremendous problem.